

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended and claims 13-20 are added. Further, [0052] of the specification of the published application is amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 5 and 6 may be found at least on page 21, lines 16-25. Support for new claims 13-18 may be found at least on page 3, lines 11-14, and on page 21, line 16 to page 23, line 18. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Amendment to the Specification

By this Amendment, paragraph [0052] of the specification of the published application is amended to cure an informality. Specifically, paragraph [0052] referenced Fig. 13. However, currently there is no such figure. Thus, paragraph [0052] was amended to replace Fig. 13 with proper Fig. 3.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0048413 (Kusunoki) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002733 (Tsai). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, "a noticing area calculating section that calculates a noticing area of an image which is an object for a trimming operation, the calculation of the noticing area being at least partially based on at least one noticing degree parameter of the image" (emphasis added).

Similarly, independent claim 5 recites, in part, "calculating a noticing area of an image which is an object for a trimming operation, the calculation of the noticing area being at least partially based on at least one noticing degree parameter of the image" (emphasis added).

Additionally, independent claim 6 recites, in part, "calculating a noticing area of an image which is an object for a trimming operation, the calculation of the noticing area being at least partially based on at least one noticing degree parameter of the image" (emphasis added).

Therefore, as recommended by the Examiner, independent claims 1, 5 and 6 further recite how the noticing area is calculated. Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, either individually or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest the noticing area being at least partially based on a noticing degree parameter.

Rather, Kusunoki relates to an imaging system that adjusts resolution of the image data according to an output resolution of a printer that is used for making a hard copy of the image. In other words, Kusunoki re-sizes the input image in accordance with the output resolution capabilities of the imaging system. Kusunoki does not teach calculating a noticing area at least partially based on a noticing degree parameter because Kusunoki determines the noticing area based on user input. Further, Tsai fails to cure the deficiencies of Kusunoki.

Kusunoki, and Tsai, in any combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest calculating the noticing area at least partially based on at least one noticing degree parameter of the image. Therefore, Kusunoki, and Tsai, either individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 5 and 6.

Claims 2-4 and 7-12 variously depend from claims 1 and 5. Because the applied references, in any combination, fail to render the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 5 obvious, dependent claims 2-4 and 7-12 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 5 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

By this Amendment, claims 13-20 are added. Claims 13-20 variously depends from claims 1 and 5. Thus, claims 13-20 are allowable for the same reasons that claims 1 and 5 are allowable as well as for the additional features it recites.

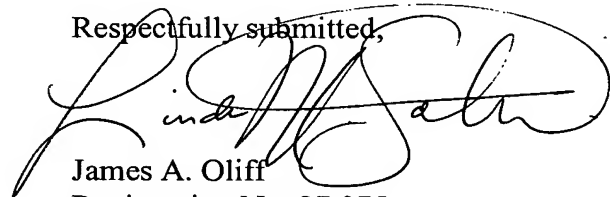
Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

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